



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Public Instruction  
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

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\*\*\***NEWS RELEASE**\*\*\*

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CONTACT: Patrick Gasper, Communications Officer, (608) 266-3559

## Six school nursing grants to impact nine school districts

*First-time competitive grants address critical need for school nursing services*

MADISON—Nine school districts throughout the state are improving and expanding nursing services for students through state-funded grants totaling \$250,000.

“The nursing services grant funds approved in the 2007-09 state budget address a critical need in our schools,” said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. “Students who have chronic health needs or who are injured or become ill during the school day need the extra care school nursing services provide. When school nurses administer to students in need, those students increase their attendance and participation in school activities, which boosts student learning and academic success.”

Districts winning competitive grants are

- Antigo School District, *Building Healthier Students*, \$22,264;
- Bayfield Consortium, including the Bayfield, Drummond, South Shore, and Washburn school districts, *Health Services for Learning*, \$36,000;
- Green Bay Area School District, *School Nurse*, \$50,099;
- Racine Unified School District, *School Nursing Grant*, \$27,500;
- Sheboygan Area School District, *HEALTH (Helping Educators and Learners through Healthcare)*, \$75,000; and
- West Allis-West Milwaukee School District, *School Nurses*, \$39,137.

Wisconsin’s student to nurse ratio is estimated at 1-to-2,000, which is higher than recommended by the National Association of School Nurses and the American Nurses Association. For regular education students, those associations recommend ratios of 1-to-750; and 1-to-250 for special education students. In most schools in Wisconsin, designated school staff members are trained and provide basic services as part of the school’s emergency nursing services plan. Twenty-four school districts and consortiums applied for school nursing services grants, requesting more than \$1 million in funding. The

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Department of Public Instruction awarded six grants for projects to be completed by June. Successful projects may be eligible for a second grant for the 2008-09 school year.

Grant applications were evaluated on established need, including the number of pupils from low-income families to be served, ratio of pupils to nurses, and rates of chronic health problems among pupils; identified student health needs; and evaluation of grant effectiveness. Priority went to grant proposals that targeted services to at least one school in which 70 percent or more of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Services for students from other schools in the district or consortium could be included in the grant as well. Services offered through the grant could include: population assessment, management of acute and chronic care, medication administration, immunization and communicable disease care, injury control, physical assessment and screening, health education and promotion, case management, and advocacy for health and safety of children and youth in the school setting. Grants could be used to hire a school nurse or contract for school nursing services.

“These state-funded grants help schools provide a vital service for their students,” Burmaster said. “Nursing services are one of the many tools schools need to improve student achievement and close the achievement gap.”

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